

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PANAMA 00814 081838Z

63

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 AGR-20 OMB-01 COME-00 TRSE-00

CEA-02 IO-14 STR-08 CIEP-02 XMB-07 AID-20 OPIC-12

DRC-01 /193 W

----- 105977

R 081805Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9765

INFO AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

C O N F I D E N T I A L PANAMA 0814

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, PN

SUBJ: SUGAR, APPROACH TO GOVERNMENTS OF QUOTA COUNTRIES

REF: (A) STATE 022675; (B) STATE 16259; (C) PANAMA A-26

OF 1/31/74; (D) AGATT PN 3016 OF 12/5/73

1. POINTS IN REFTEL (A) BROUGHT TO ATTENTION OF MINISTER OF AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT. HE SAID THAT PANAMA INTENDS TO FULFILL ENTIRE U.S. QUOTA OBLIGATION AND GAVE BREAKDOWN OF EXPECTED EXPORT LEVEL OF 79,000 TONS MILL BY MILL. HE ADDED THAT PANAMA WILL NOT EXPORT SUGAR TO ANY OTHER DESTINATION. MINISTER POINTED OUT THAT THIS YEAR'S HARVEST HAS BEEN SLOWER THAN NORMAL DUE TO LATE SEASON HEAVY RAINS, AND MILLING PERIOD WILL BE SHORTER THAN USUAL.

2. MINISTER SAID 3 NEW MILLS BEING PLANNED AND THAT PRODUCTION OF CANE WOULD BE DOUBLED WITHIN 3 YEARS AND EXPORTS EXPANDED TO 200,000 TONS PROVIDING U.S. QUOTA AVAILABLE. HE REITERATED OPINIONS PREVIOUSLY TRANSMITTED IN REF (D) THAT U.S. VIEWED AS ONLY MARKET FOR PANAMANIAN

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SUGAR. MINISTER SAID THAT EXIMBANK HAS ALREADY BEEN APPROACHED FOR FINANCIAL PARTICIPATION IN PLANNED EXPANSION AND THAT SOME

AGREEMENT TO BE SIGNED SHORTLY.

3. AT SAME MEETING, EMBOFFS VERIFIED THAT VICE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE WAS FULLY INFORMED OF SUGAR ACT HEARINGS INFORMATION CONTAINED IN REFTEL (B) AND THAT PANAMA WILL BE REPRESENTED.

COMMENT: REF (D) PREVIOUSLY STATED LOCAL VIEW THAT U.S. ONLY MARKET FOR PANAMANIAN SUGAR AND POINTED OUT THAT 1974 ESTIMATED EXPORT AVAILABILITY ABOUT EQUAL TO U.S. QUOTA. MINISTER CONFIRMED THIS POINT, AND THEREFORE PANAMA CANNOT BE EXPECTED TO OFFER AT FIRST-COME, FIRST-SERVED ALLOCATIONS. IN PAST, PANAMA HAS SENT VIRTUALLY ALL OF ITS EXPORTS TO U.S. AND ATTEMPTED TO FULFILL QUOTA EVEN AT RISK OF LOCAL SHORTAGES. SAYRE

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Message Attributes

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30 JUN 2005

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